Foster Parent Connections - March 4, 2022

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March 4, 2022 Vol 2, Issue 5

Foster Care Stories

"This week I received a frantic message from a person who wanted to become a Foster Parent for a child they know.

Their message was one I hear often from relatives and/or people who have a special connection with a child in care. When I called them back the next morning, they had the best news ever. They said that the Case Manager had contacted them the night prior. That phone call led them to signing the papers and the child is now in their care! It was such an uplifting phone call, and truly made my day. About half of the Resource Homes we partner with are relatives. They are a vital part of our community, and we could not do any of it without them."

- **Melissa Selsor**, Program Development Specialist - Resource Licensing

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Training & Events

Level B Training

Level B training is scheduled for March 8 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and will be held virtually. Please email **Dana.L.Kloess@dss.mo.gov** to register and **include the following information in your email: resource parent name, vendor number (DVN), phone number, email address, county, and licensing worker's name and phone number**.

Kinship Training

Kinship training will be held via Zoom on March 12 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM with a break for lunch. You must attend the entire session for credit. Please RSVP to Kim Gisburne at **kgisburne@ccstl.org or 314-854-5733**. Once you are registered, you will receive a link via email prior to the class.

Trauma Training

Trauma training will be held in Ozark, Missouri on March 19 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you are interested in attending please email **kacie.dale@jordanvalley.org**. If you have questions about the training please email **shauna.r.wehmeier@dss.mo.gov**.

Friday Refuel Sessions

Join us every Friday from 12:00 - 1:00 PM for virtual connection and encouragement. Each session will start with a short devotional, and then we will have a strategy session to discuss challenging situations with a child or our own skill building. Please email Caroline Charlton with topics or challenges you would like for us to add to our strategy sessions. You can also email **Caroline.Charlton@mbch.org** to register and receive the zoom link.

Children's Mercy webinar

Children's Mercy presents a free webinar training that discusses teens and home safety. After you register, you will be sent a free locked box for medicine and a free gun type locked device. You can register on **Children's Mercy website**.

Topics in the webinar will include eating disorder prevention, home safety, screen time, self-care, substance use, and suicide prevention.

Tips & Reminders

Parenting in Racially and Culturally Diverse Adoptive Families

This **factsheet** is a great resource for adoptive families as it, "provides information to help you and your family support your child in developing a healthy racial and cultural identity and live a vibrant multicultural life. It discusses the importance of examining your thoughts and biases and preparing your child to live in a society where race has a major impact on individual lives."

You can use this factsheet as a resource for information on some of the potential rewards and challenges that come with choosing to live a multicultural and multiracial family life," (childwelfare.gov).

Memos/Practice Alerts

A **memo** released Friday, February 25 explaining that the three quarterly documents for the quarterly visits with your Licensing Worker have been merged into one document.

We hope that the result of this is that you have more time to have a conversation with your Licensing worker about what is going well, what are your challenges, community services, and other tips and feedback.

We are trying diligently to provide better customer service to our Resource Parents. One way we are doing this is by streamlining the paperwork and allowing more time for meaningful conversation.

Our Mission: Empower Missourians to live safe, healthy, and productive lives.

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